WE CLAIM:

1.   A system for playing a game of bingo including:

a data processing means, said data processing means storing a plurality of bingo card patterns and generating statements having informational data thereon and corresponding to one or more of said bingo card patterns;

a printer in communication with said data processing means for printing said generated statements;

means to generate random numbers, said generation means in communication with said data processing means such that said generated random numbers are communicated to said data processing means;

said data processing means determining whether one or more of said bingo card patterns are winning cards by comparing said stored bingo patterns with each of the numbers generated and storing a status of each card as said numbers are generated, said means to generate random numbers being disabled upon determination of one or more winning cards; and

means to notify participants of the status of stored bingo cards corresponding to said generated statements.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein said data processing means is a microprocessor.

3.   The system of claim 2 wherein said means to generate random numbers is a random number generator integrated in said microprocessor.

4.   The system of claim 1 wherein said means to generate random numbers is a bingo ball hopper.

5.   The system of claim 1 wherein said means to notify said participants of the status of their statements is a monitor, viewable by said participants, in communication with said data processing means.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said monitor displays one or more of the bingo cards closest to achieving bingo.

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7. The system of claim 5 wherein said monitor displays a statement identification code corresponding to the best bingo card.

8. The system of claim 5 wherein said monitor displays the numbers needed to be generated for a best bingo card to achieve bingo.

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9. The system of claim 1 wherein said data processing means comprises a computer network having one or more point of sale terminals.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein said one or more point of sale terminals

15 includes a magnetic card reader, a barcode reader, a bill acceptor, a printer, a bill dispenser and a keyboard.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein said one or more point of sale terminals includes a smart card reader, a barcode reader, a bill acceptor, a printer, a bill

20 dispenser and a keyboard.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein said one or more point of sale terminals includes a magnetic card reader, a barcode reader, a bill acceptor, a printer, a bill dispenser and a touch screen.

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13. The system of claim 9 wherein said one or more point of sale terminals includes a smart card reader, a barcode reader, a bill acceptor, a printer, a bill dispenser and a touch screen.

14.   The system of claim 9 wherein said point of sale terminals include a monitor for displaying a current status of at least one statement including a payout value associated therewith.

5   15.   The system of claim 1 wherein, upon determination of one or more winning bingo cards, said data processing means further determines a prize associated therewith.

16.   The system of claim 1 including a session of bingo games, said session
10   comprising at least two bingo games in sequence, upon the occurrence of one or more predetermined events, said occurrence enabling said means to generate random numbers.

17.   The system of claim 16 wherein the predetermined event is a
15   predetermined time since completion of a previous bingo game.

18.   The system of claim 16 wherein the predetermined event is a predetermined time for a start of a new game.

20   19.   The system of claim 16 wherein the predetermined event is a predetermined number of sales of bingo cards for a new game.

20.   The system of claim 1 wherein said data processing unit further validates said statements upon presentation by comparing stored informational data
25   corresponding to said statements with said information printed on said statements.

21.   The system of claim 20 wherein said information printed on said statements includes an identification code.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein said information printed on said statements includes a verification code.

23. The system of claim 20 wherein said information printed on said statements includes a player tracking number.

24. The system of claim 20 wherein said information printed on said statements includes a player name.

25. The system of claim 20 wherein at least portions of said information printed on said statements is in the form of a barcode.

26. The system of claim 10 wherein said point of sale terminals include a data processing means that generates and prints one or more statements each including an identification and verification number; and

said data processing means displaying on a monitor an outcome corresponding to said statement upon first inputting said identification number, said data processing means validating said statement upon second inputting the verification number.

27. The system of claim 1 further including a cashier terminal in communication with said data processing unit, said cashier terminal including a monitor for displaying an outcome corresponding to said printed statements.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein said data processing means scans identification and verification codes printed on said statements to retrieve the results of the bingo cards corresponding to said statements.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein an operator may override the data processing means and manually enter the identification and verification codes.

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30. A computer implemented method of playing a game of bingo including:

storing a plurality of bingo card patterns and generating one or more statements corresponding to said bingo card patterns;

printing said generated statements;

5   generating random numbers;

determining whether one or more of said bingo card patterns are winning cards by comparing said stored bingo patterns with each of the numbers generated and storing a status of each card as said numbers are generated;

disabling generation of random numbers upon determining one or more winning

10   cards; and

notifying participants of the status of stored bingo cards corresponding to said generated statements.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein generating random numbers comprises

15   a random number generator integrated in a microprocessor.

32. The method of claim 30 wherein generating random numbers comprises a bingo ball hopper.

20   33. The method of claim 30 wherein notifying said participants of the status of their statements comprises a monitor, viewable by participants, in communication with said computer.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein said monitor displays one or more of the

25   bingo cards closest to achieving bingo.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein said monitor displays a statement identification code corresponding to the best bingo card.

36.   The method of claim 33 wherein said monitor displays the numbers needed to be generated for a best bingo card to achieve bingo.

37.   The method of claim 30 further comprising a computer network having one or more point of sale terminals.

38.   The method of claim 37 wherein said point of sale terminals include a monitor for displaying a current status of at least one statement including a payout value associated therewith.

39.   The method of claim 30 further including determining a prize associated with the determination of one or more winning bingo cards.

40.   The method of claim 30 further comprising a session of bingo games, said session comprising at least two bingo games in sequence, upon the occurrence of one or more predetermined events, said occurrence enabling said generating of random numbers.

41.   The method of claim 40 wherein the predetermined event is a predetermined time since completion of a previous bingo game.

42.   The method of claim 40 wherein the predetermined event is a predetermined time for a start of a new game.

43.   The method of claim 40 wherein the predetermined event is a predetermined number of sales of bingo cards for a new game.

44.   The method of claim 30 further comprising validating said statements upon presentation by comparing stored informational data corresponding to said statements with said information printed on said statements.

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45.   The method of claim 44 wherein said information printed on said statements includes an identification code.

46.   The method of claim 44 wherein said information printed on said statements includes a verification code.

47.   The method of claim 44 wherein said information printed on said statements includes a player tracking number.

48.   The method of claim 44 wherein said information printed on said statements includes a player name.

49.   The method of claim 44 wherein at least portions of said information printed on said statements is in the form of a barcode.

50.   The method of claim 37 wherein said point of sale terminals generate and print one or more statements each including an identification and verification number;

said terminals displaying on a monitor an outcome corresponding to said statement upon first inputting said identification number and validating said statement upon second inputting the verification number.

51.   The method of claim 30 further comprises displaying an outcome corresponding to said printed statements.

52.   The method of claim 51 wherein said displaying an outcome corresponding to said printed statements comprises scanning identification and verification codes printed on said statements to retrieve the results of the bingo cards corresponding to said statements.

53.   The method of claim 52 wherein said scanning operation is overridden and the identification and verification codes are inputted manually.

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